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Clinton challenges lawyers to fight racism

By Sonya Ross

WASHINGTON (AP) — Drawing on President Kennedy's legacy, President Clinton asked U.S. lawyers to help the nation's poor and minorities share in today's prosperity.

The U.S. legal system should reflect the country's diversity and the profession should recommit to doing free work for those who cannot afford it, Clinton said. "There will never be a better opportunity to help those who need it most," Clinton said.

The president gathered Attorney General Janet Reno along with leaders from various areas of law, such as bar associations, corporation counsels and civil rights attorneys, to issue a "call to action."

The President called it "a civil rights issue."

He said in the East Room of the White House, "We need the work that lawyers do. We need the ideas lawyers get. We need the dreams lawyers dream. We still need to fight for legal justice."

The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund said while the action is largely commemorative, it may immediately provide a mechanism to respond to the "powerful movement" seeking to dismantle affirmative action and other remedies for past racism.

"There's a struggle under way, and I hope this gets some of these lawyers to weigh in and lend their expertise to those who need it the most," said Ted Shaw, associate director-counsel of the NAACP fund.

"We are confronted, primarily, with a moral issue ... as old as the Scriptures and as clear as the American Constitution."

— JFK, Sr. 1963

This event was patterned after a call Kennedy issued in the South White House East room in June 1963, before 200 lawyers. Kennedy urged them to condemn Gov. George Wallace's stand against allowing black students to enroll in Alabama public universities. That call led to the creation of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

Kennedy was joined by his brother, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and Vice President Lyndon Johnson, who succeeded Kennedy and implemented the "Great Society" programs to address entrenched poverty.

Kennedy saw his effort as prodding Americans to take up the battle for racial equality. "We are confronted, primarily, with a moral issue. It is as old as the Scriptures and as clear as the American Constitution," he said.

Clinton announced a series of commitments to promote opportunities for diversity in the legal profession. They were worked out by the White House Justice Department, bar associations, law schools and private sector attorneys over the past year.

The American Bar Association to expand programs for corporations to hire more minority law firms, encourage lawyers to provide free services to the poor and assist minority law students. The American Corporate Counsel Association to promote free legal work and help corporate counsels locally promote such pro bono services and diversity.

Some leading law firms to have their attorneys commit to spend 50 hours a year, or 3 percent of billable time, performing pro bono services for nonprofits or in distressed neighborhoods.

The American Association of Law Schools to teach racial justice and public service and encourage students to volunteer in minority communities.

NJ blacks mourn for JFK, Jr.



In a recent photograph, John F. Kennedy, Jr., and his wife Carolyn Kennedy join the Blue Room at the White House with President Bill Clinton.

By Gilda Rogers and Carl Chase

Character goes a long way, and that of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, Jr., was defined and imbedded in our minds in 1963. As his father's horse-drawn caisson rolled by, a three-year-old JFK Jr. stole America's heart with a manly military salute in honor of his slain father, all the people's president.

Surely, he could not fully comprehend the tragic circumstances surrounding that moment, but his gesture would help to ease the pain of a mourning nation. A gesture that would introduce and invite him into the lives of all Americans.

Crossing racial barriers, most Americans felt as if they knew him and shared in the Kennedy family's grief at his untimely death, along with his wife's family, who lost two children, Carolyn Besette Kennedy and her sister Lauren Besette.

Black playwright Richard Wesley reflected on the devastating sadness that has swept the country as Kennedy had gone missing and as hope slowly ebbed before he was found. "It's a very sad and tragic happenstance, considering all the things that have happened to that family," he said from his

Montclair home. "There's a sense that he and his wife and sister were represented, they've lost all that now."

For many black students, hopes for a country more hospitable to black people shattered along with Kennedy's airplane. "We dreamed," said Newark Mayor Sharpe James, "that the son would one day enter politics and fulfill the dreams and legacy of his father."

Former Newark Councilwoman Mildred Crump had looked forward to seeing what Kennedy would do. "I don't see anyone on the horizon as sensitive to our needs and our issues. It's a really tragic loss for the African-American community as well as for the world."

African Americans will miss his ability to see people for who they are and not their color, said Rev. Raymond Jackson, pastor of St. Matthew AME Church in Orange. "JFK, Jr., in his life and the way he interacted with people, demonstrated what the ideal America would be like: where race and class and status were not of primary importance," said Jackson, who is executive director of the New Jersey Black Ministers Council.

Although JFK, Jr. was born with a silver

spoon in his mouth, his character dictated that for 38 years he created a life worthy of being called his own.

East Orange Mayor Robert Bowser suffered a loss along with the Kennedy clan, he said. "The family had contributed so much to society — he had a real touch with the people."

In 1987, Kennedy quietly established a foundation in New York called Reaching Up, which assisted the mentally retarded and the entry-level blue collar worker. "It is regrettable that many of his works went unnoticed and unpublished," said East Orange Councilman Jimmy Small.

He proved to be no superman, failing the bar exam twice before becoming a lawyer. But in the tradition of the first family of human-issue politics, he fashioned his own unconventional niche in the political arena, as editor-in-chief of the political "George" magazine.

As he moved through the streets of his beloved New York City, his seat to live life on his own terms took us all by surprise. It saddened us his airplane wreck ending the adventure John Kennedy, Jr., made of his life.

State approves insider to head Newark School District

NEWARK — Veteran Newark educator Marion Bolden received approval from the state Board of Education on May 21 to head the city's state-controlled school system.

The troubled district has been under state control since 1995. State officials have been under local pressure to name an insider to the superintendent's post.

Bolden has served as the district's "associate superintendent for teaching and learning" since 1996. She began her career in Newark as a math teacher in 1969, and later served as a math administrator and assistant superintendent for high schools.

"I have worked in the Newark Public Schools for my entire career and I love the people and children of the district," Bolden said. "I look forward to working with the Newark community as I move forward to implement whole school reform, early childhood programs and the district's strategic plan."

Newark, like New Jersey's other special needs or "Abbott" districts, is undertaking sweeping changes ordered last year by the state Supreme Court.

Education Commissioner David Heise said it was important to hire someone who had close ties to the community to carry out these changes.

Bolden replaces Beverly Hall, who recently left the district to become the public schools superintendent in Atlanta. Hall ran the Newark schools for four years after state officials recruited her from New York City.

Bolden's contract will pay her \$150,000 annually, with additional performance bonuses. Bolden, 53, lives in Orange.

Newark is New Jersey's largest school district. It was beset by in test scores, corruption and decaying buildings when state officials decided to assume control, and it still needs work.

The superintendent in a state-controlled district has duties beyond the typical superintendent in New Jersey. Bolden will oversee the district's 8,000 employees and have hiring and firing authority, subject to the state's approval.

She also will have veto power over curriculum, fiscal and legal decisions made by the Newark Schools Advisory Board.

Black CEOs tackle access to capital

By Carl Chase

NEWARK — Black business executives are working to build financial vehicles to promote investments in the banking industry's most grossly underserved areas of the state — black and urban communities.

The initiative was launched through a July 21 roundtable workshop on countering the barriers to business capital for black businesses.

Even though New Jersey is one of the richest states in business venture capital, many inner city firms just can't acquire the capital they need, said City News Publisher Henry Johnson. So, the company assembled about 50 New Jersey business executives to attack the problem.

"For black business especially, we know that access to capital has always been a problem," Johnson said. "I've always wondered why there was no venture capital fund

so enlivened the post and delays can devastate any small business, and hindering laws like the federal Community Reinvestment Act lack enforcement, members of the group agreed.

Black small-business loan applicants are turned down twice as much as white ones of equal creditworthiness, according to new Dartmouth University research published on the Internet by the Federal Reserve Board.

Black bankers in Trenton have had to take on themselves the issue of unfair lending as it affects the families in their community, said John Harmon, president of the Metropolitan Trenton African-American Chamber of Commerce.

"The Community Reinvestment Act is a joke. So the ministers got together and agreed to put all their money into one or two banks."

A newly-formed committee will study how feasible creating such a new business fund would be. Johnson said. He named Plainfield attorney W. Kevin Wright, who helped lead black-owned TLC Beatrice's mega-buyout and create the world's largest food company, and Joe Wilson, CEO of Integrated Packaging Corp., a \$50 million corrugated box manufacturer in New Brunswick, to help spearhead the feasibility study.

Victims of unfair lending should hold banks accountable, said Richard Spears, president of One Hundred Black Men of New Jersey and of Powerhouse Realty. "Take your money and move it somewhere else. It's that simple."

Other executives on the roundtable include Hamilton Bowser, president of Evanbow construction, The Writing Company President Gloria Bryant, Jonah Cooper, president of Jones Cooper Associates, Jon Corrine, former chairman of Goldman Sachs and a candidate for U.S. Senate, Vernon Hammond of Hammond Associates. Also, Gustav Henningberg of Gustav Henningberg Associates, Michael James of Patsy Pleasure, Jill Johnson of On Point Consulting, Miguel and Monica Mancuso of Selective Staffing, Arthur Powell of Powell Capital Markets, Cecil Sanders of CBS Construction, Al Sturdivant of Sturdivant & Co., and Avia Yates of Technology Concepts Group Inc.



Integrated Packaging Corp. (New Brunswick) President and CEO Joe Wilson, right, confers with Kevin Dericoff, vice president of corporate development and communications for Terrell Graphics.

Photo by Carl Chase

"I've always wondered why there was no venture capital fund focused on the urban centers, given the opportunities that we have."

— Henry C. Johnson, Ph.D.

focused on the urban centers, given the opportunities that we have. One of the things for us to consider is the possibility of creating a venture fund directed specifically at helping expand and build businesses in these urban centers."

The group addressed some of the barriers to capital for operating or expanding a business. Many small business lenders snub black businesses with summary loan denials and a low level of customer service. And, there is red tape

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28

NEWARK — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center's (NJ-PAC) Arts Education Department presents a free performance of music, theater and modern dance by the Summer Youth Performance Workshop. 6 p.m. 1-800-GO-NJ-PAC or (973) 297-5538.

NEW BRUNSWICK — The New Jersey State Council of Urban League Executives hosts a youth conference at Rutgers University Busch Campus. Call (732) 247-9066 for time and information.

CRAWFORD — Union County College hosts a workshop on college admissions. 5:30 p.m. (908) 709-7518.

EAST BRUNSWICK — The Zany Brainy Store on RL 18 presents children's playwright Mary Pope Osborne. 7 p.m. (732) 651-0002.

THURSDAY, JULY 29

MARGATE CITY — MediaWorks, Inc. hosts its "Political Lecture Series," featuring author and presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin at the Stern Auditorium. 7:30 p.m. (908) 927-6564.

PLAINFIELD — Union County College hosts a workshop on college admissions. 5:30 p.m. (908) 709-7518.

CHERRY HILL — The New Jersey State Fair returns for another year of excitement and thrills for the whole family at the Garden State Park Race track. Call 1-800-749-3247 for location and information.

FRIDAY, JULY 30

NEWARK — Africa Newark returns for another year of arts, games and entertainment for the whole family at Military Park through Aug. 1. 10 a.m. (973) 928-1490.

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Summer Workshop for the arts debuts for the summer run of programs developed directly for the arts through Aug. 6. 9 a.m. Call (908) 789-9598 for location and information.

CLARK — The Clark Public Library will offer a workshop on juggling for kids ages six and up. 10:30 a.m. (732) 388-5999.

BLACKWOOD — The Camden County 4-H Fair offers food, crafts, animals & horse shows for everyone at the Lakeland 4-H Fairgrounds. Call (609) 565-2900 for time and information.

CHESTER — The Morris County 4-H Fair provides family fun at Chubb Park through Aug. 1. Call (973) 255-5301 for time information.

NEWARK — The Newark Downtown

District and the Newark Municipal Council presents musical group Line Drive at Military Park, as part of the Sweet City Summer Lunchtime Concert Series. 12 p.m. (973) 739-1800.

JAMESBURG — SingleFaces, Inc. hosts a singles function at the Forsgate Country Club. 9 p.m. (732) 462-2406.

SATURDAY, JULY 31

ORANGE — The Man Of The O.C. presents "An Evening of Music and Dancing" featuring DJ Jahed Muhammad at Rousseau's Manor at 8 p.m. (973) 259-7139.

NORTH WILMINGTON — The Fourth Annual Sandblast Beach Run is a two-five mile run on the hardest packed beach in New Jersey. Call (908) 729-5572 for time and information.

FRANKLIN — The Plainfield Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. hosts its Fourth Annual Greg Hackett Memorial Golf Tournament at Bunker Hill Golf Course. Call (908) 755-4596 for time and information.

NEWARK — The New Jersey Community Water Watch will hold a community clean up meeting at Branch Brook Park. 9:30 a.m. (973) 353-5021.

NEW BRUNSWICK — The Rutgers Gardens Open House gives residents the chance to view, purchase and discuss the world of gardening and plant life at the Rutgers University Gardens. Call (732) 932-8451 for time and information.

JERSEY CITY — The annual "Sick of Heaven" Dominion: 500 Festival is a day long party that celebrates the pride and heritage of the Dominican people and culture. The event takes place on the streets of Montgomery & Hudson Streets. Call (201) 547-9522 for time and information.

SUSSEX — Spice Farms, located on Rt. 519, presents its annual "Tasty Bear Day." Kids under 12 receive free admission when they bring a teddy bear. A teddy bear contest with prizes and a special talk on bears. Call (973) 875-5800 for time and information.

SADDLE BROOK — SingleFaces, Inc. hosts a singles function at the Marriott. 9 p.m. (732) 462-2406.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1

ISELIN — SingleFaces, Inc. hosts a singles function at the Woodbridge Hilton. 8 p.m. (732) 462-2406.

MAPLEWOOD — The Men of Essex, Inc. hosts its 39th Annual Amateur Golf Tournament at Maplewood Country Club. 12 p.m. (201) 783-2012.

Kato honored by Union County



Union County Freeholder Chairman Nicholas P. Scurtari (center) acknowledges the hard work and strong values of Juvenile Detention Officer Mable Sutherland-Kato (left) as he presented a Resolution in recognition of her 30th Anniversary of working for the county. Joining in the celebration is Freeholder Chester Holmes.

Work of artist is the talk of teen arts exhibit



Freeholder Lewis Mingo (left) is holding one of Richard Hill's (right) colored pencil work drawings that was on display at the recent TEEN ARTS Exhibit tour at the Freeholder Art Gallery. Richard, who is a student at Hamilton Middle School in Elizabethtown, was one of 37 participants to be included in the tour. The art tour is part of Union County's TEEN ARTS FESTIVAL, which helps kids appreciate cultural backgrounds and surroundings.

Kid who mows lawns for donor awareness comes to NJ



14-year-old Ryan Tripp (center), also known as the "Lawnmower Boy," stopped in Trenton to mow the state house lawn in an effort to increase organ and tissue donor awareness. While in Trenton he met with Gov. Christie Whitman (right) and Joseph Roh, president and CEO of the New Jersey Organ and Tissue Sharing Network. Ryan was presented with a replica of a New Jersey license plate with the number 1-800-SHARE-NJ. This is the number to call if you would like to register to become an organ and tissue donor in New Jersey. Ryan is visiting the state capitol in each 50 states and will also set a Guinness Book of World Records. Ryan started his journey last month and will conclude in Hawaii in early August.

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— Paul Robeson

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National Briefs

GA. BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CALLS FOR BOYCOTT OF FLOWERS INDUSTRIES

ATLANTA — One of affirmative actions leading opponents in Georgia, Southeastern Legal Foundation (SLF), is being funded by a large food manufacturer.

"Through extensive research, we have found some interesting facts about one of SLF's founding members and its largest contributor, Flowers Industries," said Lou Walker, president of the Georgia Black Chamber of Commerce, after he and State Representative Billy McKinney uncovered the information.

Flowers Industries, Inc., located in Thomasville, GA, distributes baked, frozen and snack foods nationwide with several outlet stores around the state. Atlanta area Flowers Bakery products include Roman Meal, Nature's Own, Sunbeam and Cobblesstone Mill products.

"When you buy one of Mrs. Smith's delectable pies, you should know that you are supporting Flowers Industries," said Walker. "Flowers Industries also owns controlling interest in the Keebler cookie empire."

NATIONAL BLACK UNITED FRONT ANNUAL CONVENTION IS A SUCCESS

(NINPA) — The National Black United Black Front held its annual national convention in Kansas City, Mo., under the theme of "Economic Liberation for the Black Nation."

"Over the last 22 years, we have had a variety of convention themes addressing various critical issues impacting on the African community in America," said Dr. Conrad Worrill, national chairman of the NBUF.

"However, we have never addressed, as a convention concentration, the question of economics and the Black Liberation Movement."

U.N. STUDY SAYS RURAL WOMEN THE MOST NEGLECTED

UNITED NATIONS (IPS) — Rural women often have higher productivity than their male counterparts, but still remain the most neglected in society, according to a U.N. report recently released.

The 13-page report, titled "Improvement of the Situation of Women in Rural Areas," said that women make the most significant contributions to rural economies despite the fact they are mired in poverty and lack productive assets and resources.

"By not counting the unpaid work of women on family farms, official figures have consistently undervalued the contribution of women to agricultural production," the study notes.

"Women are among the poorest of the poor," said U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan at the recent annual meeting of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in Geneva.

"They work long days, walk long distances to fetch water and must find time and energy for informal sector activities which are their only source of income. Their jobs are truly nerve-racking."

SC cancels convention to protest state's Confederate flag

ATLANTA — Responding to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's resolution last week to boycott the state of South Carolina for its refusal to remove the Confederate flag from its Capitol dome, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference has canceled its July 24-28 convention to be held in Charleston.

"The state Legislature has been unable to muster the courage to remove the flag, despite many years of effort," said Martin Luther King III, national president of the SCLC. Issues scheduled to have been addressed during the SCLC convention included its Gun Buy-Back program, Health Care, key women's concerns, continuation of its national hearings on police brutality, and its alternative sentencing program in 10 cities, along with new initiatives for the 21 century, which encompasses technological mandates facing us.

"Many people try to justify display of the Confederate flag by saying it is a symbol of Southern heritage," King said. "But in reality, the flag began to be displayed conspicuously as a symbol of resistance to the key 1954 Brown v. Board of Education U.S. Supreme Court decision — as part of the flags for many southern states."

"We cannot at this point in history resurrect ghosts of the past and allow the resurgence of racism, disunity and the politics of resentment that the confederate flag



(Left to right) Reverend Joseph Lowery President Emeritus of SCLC and Martin Luther King III, the National President of SCLC.

reclaims," King said. "Those of our people who have purchased non-refundable tickets and made irrevocable vacation plans, we call upon you to make the sacrifices today that could very well change the entire future as it relates to our getting

respect for our presence at the economic table."

Citing nagging racial and ethnic hatred and slaughter reported in the news each day, King, who keynoteed the NMCP National Convention in New York on July 12, lamented the world's failure to hear his father's message of non-violence and freedom made 35 years ago. "The world clearly needs America's leadership, and it must begin with us," King said.

The state of South Carolina's failure to adopt the Martin Luther King Jr. official holiday supports only further the SCLC leadership's decision to cancel the convention. SCLC National Board Member Walter Fauntroy was asked to begin contacting the 250 organizations that make up the Black Leadership Roundtable to support the boycott effort.

Recognizing that individuals and organizations of good will in South Carolina who oppose display of the flag will be impacted by the decision to cancel the convention, King expressed concern and regret. But he called on all organizations and corporations that love justice to join in the boycott. King further

thanked the Charleston community for its overwhelming support of the planned convention and expressed hope that SCLC could bring its convention to a "redeemed state" in the near future.

"We pledge to the community of Charleston that we will return to conduct a Gun Buy-Back in the near future," King said. "We also plan to conduct hearings on police brutality and health care facility closings."

Reflecting on his father's thoughts and remarks on the issues of freedom and leadership for equal rights, Martin Luther King III cited this excerpt:

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in times of comfort and convenience, but where he stands in times of challenge and controversy. On some questions, cowardice asks is a position safe; experience asks is a position popular; vanity asks is a position popular; but conscience asks is a position right. Sometimes we must take positions that are neither safe nor popular nor politic, but we must take them because our conscience tells us that they are right." — Martin Luther King Jr.

National Feature

Teens neighborhood offers lessons for changing America

By Beth Gardner
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Strolling along the bustling streets of Elmhurst-Corona is a little like walking through Beijing. And a little like Mexico City. And Seoul. And Santo Domingo. And Port-au-Prince. And Bangkok. And Lagos. But not exactly like anyplace but Elmhurst-Corona. City planners believe the area — in the heart of Queens, the borough Archie Barker made famous — may be the world's most diverse neighborhood. And urban anthropologist Roger Sanjek, who's studied Elmhurst-Corona for 16 years, thinks it has a lot to teach us about more ethnically mixed America. Elmhurst-Corona experienced in the 1970s and '80s what some demographers predict the nation as a whole will go through in the new century — transition to a "majority minority" makeup, where whites of European extraction are less than half the population. Sanjek says the area's 150,000 people, crowded into 21/2 square miles, have learned to live and work side-by-side with little of the tension that sometimes simmers when different ethnic and racial groups are forced together. "Trying to understand why that happens has been the big question," the Queens College professor said over tea at a neighborhood Chinese bakery.

"Why has this been a place where things haven't fallen apart, where people aren't at each other's throats?" "The Future of Us All," Sanjek's recent book, credits the area's thriving grassroots democracy, the extreme nature of its ethnic and racial mix, and residents' commitment to getting along. Sanjek, who's of Croatian and Irish descent, grew up in Queens but had never been to Elmhurst-Corona before starting his research in 1983. He was drawn by the area's diversity and its place in the exact middle of New York's socioeconomic structure. The neighborhood's main commercial avenues, a short subway ride from midtown Manhattan, give even the most casual passerby a glimpse of its multicultural makeup. David's Taiwanese Cuisine sits next door to the Camerica Colombia Meat Market, and just up the street from an Islamic chicken shop, a Thai video store and a row of Bangladeshi and Pakistani kebab houses. Newsstands sell papers from India and the Caribbean, and the local public library branch offers books in Bengali, Hindi and Urdu alongside Spanish-language videos and African magazines. Men in colorful African garb stroll past women in Indian saris; Hindu and Buddhist temples share the street with mosques, synagogues and churches. Don't even bother trying to identify all the languages you hear on the street. In 16 years of up-close research in Elmhurst-Corona, Sanjek has attended hundreds of political and civic group meetings, religious services, festivals and marches — and spent thousands of hours just watching and talking to people. What he saw was democracy at work in a form that helped residents overcome differences and focus on common concerns. They joined forces against problems like school overcrowding and crime that touch everyone regardless of his or her origin, Sanjek said. "We all need heat, we all need hot water, we all want clean streets, we want good schools for our kids," said Al Blake, vice president of the tenants association at Lefrak City, a private high-rise complex that is home to most of Elmhurst-Corona's black residents. "These are the issues we use to come together, and in doing that we're able to address our differences." Simple physical proximity has also

helped people see one another as individuals, not just members of an unfamiliar group, Sanjek believes. "You have to go to the same grocery store to buy your food, you have to use the same roadways, the kids go to the same schools," said Lucy Schiller, an Italian-American civic leader who has lived in Elmhurst-Corona for 45 years, since she was 2. "You're going to meet, no matter what. So the bridges get built automatically." Schiller, whose block is also home to Ecuadorians, Greeks, Hungarians, Brazilians, Bangladeshis, Dominicans, Chinese and Irish, said she sees to get three-way calling so translators could help her talk to neighbors and plan civic events. Elmhurst-Corona has long been home to immigrants, but until 1960, most

were from Europe and the neighborhood was 98 percent white. Now it's a multiracial, multilingual, polyglot hodgepodge of humanity. Whites are 18 percent of the neighborhood's population, according to the most recent census, compared with 43 percent in the city as a whole. Latin American immigrants are 45 percent, Asians 26 percent and blacks — both American-born and immigrants from the Caribbean and Africa — the rest. Black residents began entering the neighborhood in large numbers in the early 1970s, after the federal government used to end alleged housing discrimination at the Lefrak City complex. Most Elmhurst-Corona blacks still live in the mainly middle-class towers, the most glaring example of housing segregation

left in the neighborhood, Sanjek said. Immigrants from Asia, Latin America, Africa and elsewhere began arriving around the same time, encountering resistance from some longtime residents that eased with time and familiarity. Sanjek thinks Elmhurst-Corona's tremendous diversity has made cooperation easier than in neighborhoods like Crown Heights, Brooklyn, where blacks and Hasidic Jews clashed for several days in 1991. Blake, the Lefrak City leader, says the neighborhood's most valuable asset may be residents' commitment to one another. "The people who live in our area understand that we're in the boat together," he said. "We can sink together or swim together. And I think we've chosen to swim."



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BUSINESS CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JULY 29

SOMERSET — Inroads will hold its 10th Anniversary Awards Reception with guest speaker Jack show host and author Tony Brown. Doubletree Hotel. 7 p.m. (732) 249-1144.

FRIDAY, JULY 30

NEW YORK — The African American Male Empowerment Summit will have its opening reception at the Schomburg Center at 6 p.m. followed by workshops and a keynote luncheon featuring the Rev. Al Sharpton and Pastor Willie Kirkland at Columbia University's Low Library on July 31 at 8 a.m. Call (973) 763-2607 for information.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3

NEW BRUNSWICK — The Middlesex Chapter of the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners (NJAWBO) hosts an open house for its summer membership at the University Inn and Conference Center at Rutgers University. 5:30 a.m. (732) 238-8408.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10

NEW YORK — The Professional Women in Construction (PWC) holds a business networking and talent event to meet the 1999 speakers at La Magellan Restaurant. 5:30 p.m. (212) 687-0610.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15

NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ — The National Black Professionals' Secretaries Association, Inc. holds the 1999 Development Conference at the La Magellan Hotel. Call (770) 578-5005 for time and information.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

ATLANTIC CITY — The National Minority Supplier Development Council's 1999 EXPO Opportunity 99 at the Tropical Reef & Casino. Call (215) 683-9977 for time and information.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

PHILADELPHIA — The NAACP (National Association of African Americans) in Human Services Conference takes place at the Doubletree Hotel. Call (215) 696-1038 for time and information.

Home ownership: trick, treat or Trojan Horse?

By James Hart

The Trick is The American Dream. But assume you want to buy a home that costs \$115,000. You are prepared to put \$10,000 down, secure a 30-year mortgage for \$105,000, and pay \$4,000 in closing costs. After which, let's presume your mortgage payment is \$1,000 a month. Now, let's examine your cost after your three years.

Virtually all your entire mortgage payment — \$36,000 — is interest income for the bank. Add in your down payment, closing costs, maintenance, improvements, and roughly \$5,000 in property taxes. In all, you have spent more than \$57,000. Yet, you still have 27 years worth of payments left. The only thing you own is the debt on the home, and your savings are probably depleted. What's more, if you remain in your residence as agreed, you will pay

the bank between \$250,000 and \$275,000. Otherwise, if you sell early, assuming any appreciation, you must get another home and incinerate yourself in "debtor's prison" or split half of your profits with the IRS.

But maybe you need a home to save on taxes. Good idea, right? Wrong. You need a good CPA. There are hundreds of fun and innovative ways to legally slash your taxes to nearly zero.

The Trick: The Federal government slaps some ink on pieces of paper and calls them Treasury Bonds or Notes. On behalf of the government, authorized security dealers sell these U.S. Treasury Bonds (i.e., IOUs) on the Open Market. Community Next, the Federal Reserve takes all the government bonds that the public does not buy, and writes a check to the Congress in exchange for them. There is

"no money" to back up this check. Moreover, by calling these bonds "reserves," the Fed then uses them as the base for creating new additional dollars for every dollar created for the bonds themselves. Then, the money created for the bonds is spent. The money created on top of those bonds is the source of all bank loans made to the nation's businesses and individuals.

So, when you take out a home loan and the bank debits your account, it only pretends to lend you money — leaving you two questions:

First, how can lenders justify charging you \$250,000 to \$275,000 for a \$105,000 home? Second, how much interest income are they entitled to, on money they have neither saved nor earned, but have created out of nothing? Yet, the plunder continues, and the Fed's collect bil-

lions in interest daily.

The Trojan Horse: They descend upon your city in the stillness of the night, filled with enthusiasm to sell homes to minorities, low-income people, and first-time buyers. Their goal? They claim it is providing affordable housing for everyone — even if you are lenders bearing loan documents.

Lenders routinely identify minority communities for the purpose of selling home loans. Afterward, the loans are sold on the secondary market to investors and financial institutions outside the targeted community. (Open your coupon booklet and see where your payments are going.) As a result, unless the targeted community can intelligently offset the billions in new interest and debt payments

with fresh commerce and trade, a cash-flow crisis will begin or worsen. Hence, economic conditions inevitably decline, and neighborhoods in that community slowly deteriorate into slums and ghettos. More specifically, if the billions of dollars black people innocently export into the coffers of predatory "Banking Cartels" turned over even four-to-eight times before leaving their communities, education and free enterprise would no doubt thrive and flourish.

For a smart, fun and exciting way to buy the home or investment property you want and make money, call C.E.I.T. at (213) 427-0020 for the book "Irresistible Ways to Achieve Your Dreams."

James Hart is chief economist at Credit Suisse Acceptance Trust.

Johnson new vice-president of Smart World Technologies

NEW YORK — Smart World Technologies, a leading software and telecommunications company, announced today the appointment of Karen Johnson, an experienced

communications executive, as vice president of client services. Her responsibilities include a full range of implementation, customer service and ongoing support.

Prior to joining Smart, Ms. Johnson was senior director and vice president of information technologies and acquisitions integration at Best Hotels and Resorts, in Atlanta, the parent company of Holiday Inn, Crown Plaza and Intercontinental Hotels Worldwide. Previously, she was at Lucent Technologies, in Atlanta, the parent company of Lucent, where she was assigned as Lucent was as division manager in the chief information officer's organization, with

responsibility for outsourcing contract management.

"I'm very pleased to have Karen join our team," said Bill Perry, Smart's president. She brings a tremendous background in customer service and a high energy level that will help us achieve our mission."

"As an investor in Smart, and I'm excited about the business opportunity it represents. As an employee, it is a terrific telecommunications company, which provides our clients with a truly competitive advantage," said Ms. Johnson. "Plus, I have known Bill Perry, the president, for a number of years, and have the utmost respect in his leadership abilities."

Mrs. Johnson is a member of the Black MBA Association, and was selected as a participant in the 1998-1999 Georgia 100, a mentoring program for the top one hundred potential female executives in the State.

Mrs. Johnson earned an BS degree in Early Childhood Education from North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, NC, and an MBA in International Marketing from American University in Washington, DC.



Karen Johnson

Tips for starting your own business

Dele G. Caldwell

One of the best investments available is in yourself. Instead of mutual funds or stocks, some people invest their savings in their own business.

The obvious disadvantage is the risk. Most new businesses fail within three years. You risk losing everything you have when you start your own business.

However, the potential rewards are tremendous. The quickest way to become a millionaire is to start your own business. Successful entrepreneurial ventures can generate annual rates of return of 200 percent or more instead of the 10 to 20 percent you would receive from many traditional investments such as mutual funds, stocks and bonds.

I believe that there are three tests of entrepreneurship. Every aspiring entrepreneur should be able to pass these three tests. If they cannot pass, then they should reconsider starting a business.

The first test is determining whether you have what it takes. Contrary to popular belief, being an entrepreneur is much harder than working in a corporation. Unlike corporate employees, in a full-time entrepreneur you will work 70 or more hours a week; are under tremendous daily pressure; must become expert in planning, management, finance, accounting, marketing, sales and human organizational behavior; will be Chief Financial Officer, Chief Information Officer, CEO, manager of operations, salesperson and sometimes janitor, all at once; and must be able to live on very low income for three or more years. If you

will be comfortable this way, then you pass the first test. The second is developing a business plan that passes the scrutiny of your friends and advisors. Too often people become entrepreneurs without a solid business plan. They are simply tired of working for someone else and want to be their own boss. They usually fail due to poor planning.

You must come up with an idea and put it in the form of a business plan: a description of the product or service sold, an explanation of how it will be marketed and sold, a summary of the management team running the business, an explanation of where the business will be located and, five year financial projections. (Begin with a one-page summary that outlines these sections.) Share it with your friends and advisors — include any bankers, consultants, accountants and lawyers — who will be honestly critical of your idea. Once it survives the scrutiny of friends and advisors, you pass the second test.

The third test is implementation. The world is full of people with great ideas. Very few people can make them reality. You must have patience, fortitude, guts, persistence, vision, people skills, energy, optimism and luck. If you have all of these things, you pass the third test of entrepreneurship and have a good chance of succeeding.

If you don't possess all these things, you may be better off working for a company and investing in mutual funds, stocks or bonds. If you put yourself through the three tests of entrepreneurship, they could make or save you a lot of money. Best of luck.

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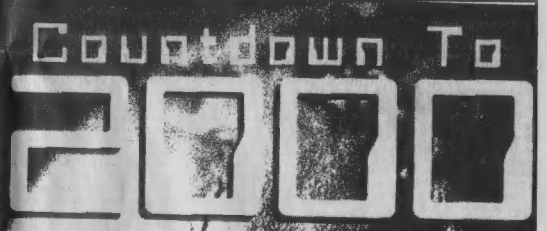
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RELIGION CALENDAR

SATURDAY, JULY 31

PLAINFIELD — St. Mary's Rectory Church will hold evening mass 5:30 p.m. (303) 755-0265.

MONTCLAIR — Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church will hold evening mass 6 p.m. (973) 744-1074.

NEWARK — Imperial Records presents Minister Lyndon Qualls and Debrahanna Church Choir at Revival Temple Holiness Church, 7:30 p.m. (973) 273-1778.

NEWARK — Bethany Baptist Church will host a church bazaar at the church parking lot 8 a.m. (973) 823-8161.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5

RED BANK — St. Thomas Episcopal Church presents the Red Bank Carnival and Fun Festival at Court Bassac Park 6 p.m. (732) 747-1039.

POSITIVELY BLACK

Strength in unity of all people

By Junious Ricardo Stanton

"Unity among the cattle makes the lion lie down hungry" — African Proverb

If we assess our global situation we will be forced to come to the conclusion that we are at the bottom of the political and socio-economic ladder. We are not inherently inferior because if we were our enemies wouldn't have to expand so much effort and energy to keep us dis-oriented, disadvantaged and disprivileged. We are in this precarious position worldwide due to our lack of unity. We can't complain about our ancestors being duped and tricked because at some point they realized the Arabs and Europeans were attacking and exporting our people to far flung regions. The larger problem is we felt victim to their M.O. of "divide and conquer." As I have said on many occasions this is not to much a strategy or tactic, effective as it is. But the way Caucasians cognitively process everything, in a predominantly left brain manner/facade.

As you know, the human brain consists of two highly specialized and semi-independently functioning hemispheres or halves which are designed to work in complementary harmony. The left hemisphere breaks things down into component parts, processes sequentially, interprets the world primarily through the five senses with a material focus and is expressive.

Conversely, the right hemisphere processes things holistically, grasps the big picture non-sequentially in totality, perceives things holistically through intuition, emotion, dreams, primarily in the non-material, abstract and creative realm. It is through the right hemisphere that we have concepts of GOD/DEITY, symbols and messages from our deep unconscious. That is why indigenous Africans didn't need "revealed" religion and why their societies are individuals, isolated entities, alienated and estranged from God, destined to subdue nature and other humans.

In contrast, people of color view themselves as inextricably tied to the universe and the all-prevailing creative spirit that indwells all creation. The goal of life from an African perspective is to live in harmony with one's self (higher being), humanity (ancestors, the unborn) and nature.

Europeans contrastingly have a "me against the world" mentality. Here lies the root of their global domination. We viewed them as people imbued with Ashé, Jök or soul. Everywhere Europeans went - in the Orient, Africa and the Americas - they were welcomed. What was always the ones who instigated war, atrocity and subjugation based upon their "us versus them" mentality.

What does this have to do with our struggle for freedom, justice and restoration? Everything. A society based upon Divine Order, balance, harmony, justice, truth, righteousness and reciprocity is definitely the product of a fully unified brain. No such paradigm or culture ever existed in the West. We need to return to our African cosmologies in order to transcend the psycho-spiritual inroads of Western culture. Unity is the key.

Religion

City of Light Renewal Center Sing Praises

It was called a city-wide camping, which celebrated the word of God through music, dancing, singing and skits. The four-day event was hosted by the City of Light Renewal Center in Plainfield. Speakers were on hand to up lift those in attendance at the vibrant fellowship. Prophet Helen Price of the L.A. Connection and Prophet Tyron Williams from New Brunswick offered inspirational praise. But it was Rev. La Dana Clark, a gospel rapper hailing from Asbury Park and founder of Inner City World Ministries, Inc., deemed "Church-N-The Hood, who roused the crowd on Thursday evening with an up tempo hip-hop spin to the gospel sounds, while encouraging attendees to stay away from drugs.



Rev. LaDana Clark, accompanied by his guitar got the crowd going with inspirational song. A family enjoys inspiring word and song on Thursday evening.

House passes bill to protect religious practices

By Jim Abrams
AP Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Muslim policemen growling beads and Jewish boys wearing yarmulkes in public schools would be better protected from government restrictions under legislation the House approved Thursday on religious rights. The bill, passed 306-118, has broad support from the Clinton administration, major religious groups and organizations ranging from the Christian Coalition to the Anti-Defamation League. But some civil rights groups also warned of people using new religious protections to justify racial or sexual discrimination. The legislation aims to override Supreme Court decisions and restore a principle that laws and regulations may not interfere with the exercise of religion unless there is a compelling government interest in doing so. Supporters cited numerous cases of what they considered bureaucratic interference with religious practice. Besides city and school dress and appearance rules, they spoke of local zoning laws that force churches to close down after certain hours, antiques on Orthodox Jews in violation of their religious beliefs, a person denied employment because her faith prevented her from taking a loyalty oath. "It puts some common sense in the murky waters of the First Amendment regarding the separation of church and state," said Rep. Jack Kingston, R-Ga. Among the

cases that the law could effect is the situation of two Muslim police officers in Newark, N.J. They have won federal court rulings allowing them to keep their beards and their jobs despite the city's no-beard policy. A city spokesman could not immediately say if the city is appealing the latest decision. In March, when the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the policy was discriminatory because it allowed medical exemptions but not religious ones. The only member of New Jersey's 13-member House delegation to vote against the bill was Rep. Donald Payne, a Democrat whose district includes Newark. His spokeswoman, Kerry McKenney, had no immediate explanation for his vote. The bill, which still requires Senate action, is the latest congressional move in a decade-long dispute with the courts over how far the government can go to protect religion. In 1990 the Supreme Court ruled that religious practices did not have special rights in the enforcement of laws and regulations Congress responded in 1993 by passing a measure stating that governments must have a compelling reason to alter religious practices, but in 1997 the Supreme Court struck down that law, saying Congress had exceeded its constitutional authority. The "Religious Liberty Protection Act" passed Thursday attempts to meet constitutional standards by limiting its scope to federally funded state and local programs and issues involving interstate commerce. It

also applies to fund use regulations that discriminate against houses of worship. Rep. Charles Canady, R-Fla., chief sponsor of the legislation, while recognizing the difficult constitutional questions it posed, believed it would pass constitutional muster. But some conservatives saw the bill as another federal encroachment on state and local authority. Ohioan House did not need an unconstitutional federal standard of religious freedom," said Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas. Michael Farris, head of the Home School Legal Defense Association, who was instrumental in writing the 1993 bill, also opposed it as a "big government maneuver." He said it was "an exercise in vanity. The Supreme Court will declare this bill unconstitutional." A bigger issue to some civil rights groups and many Democrats, was whether the religious defense offered by the bill could be used by landlords or employers to discriminate against people based on race, gender, sexual orientation or disability. The American Civil Liberties Union, which supported the 1993 bill, said it could "turn a statutory shield for religious exercise into a sword against state and local civil rights laws." The NAACP Legal

Defense and Educational Fund said the bill "will create an additional burden for plaintiffs attempting to vindicate their civil rights." Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., offered an amendment stating that while a small-scale landlord or employer might use religion as a basis for denying access to a gay or lesbian of a minority, larger groups cannot. "It is not right to abrogate the civil rights of many Americans in order to protect the religious liberty of other Americans," he said. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., noted that Texas Gov. George W. Bush, the current Republican presidential frontrunner, recently signed into law a state religious protection bill that goes even further than the Nadler amendment in ensuring that religion need not be used as a license for discrimination. But Canady said the Nadler amendment would make religious liberty subordinate to other civil rights, and it was defeated 234-190.

Farrakhan's health improving

CHICAGO (AP) — Though not well enough to attend a weekend gathering of his followers, Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan vowed in a telephone address to return to his public speaking schedule in the next few months. "I am like a horse changing at the bit," Farrakhan said via telephone



interview to a group gathered Saturday night at a South Side Chicago restaurant for a party to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the First Amendment. Call, the Minister Louis Farrakhan. Nation's newspaper, Farrakhan, who sounded upbeat during his 15-minute address, said he is nearly cancer-free and recovering from a rectal ulcer caused by radiation treatments. He said doctors now say the ulcer is 50 percent healed. "I believe within the next few months that ulcer will be completely healed and that your brother will be back with you," he said, later adding, "I'm not an old man, and I'm certainly not tired." Nation of Islam officials said Farrakhan was speaking from one of his homes but would not say which one. He has at least two homes, one in Chicago and another in New Buffalo Township, Mich. Farrakhan, 66, was first diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1991 and underwent surgery March 30 to correct an inflammation caused by his treatment. On Saturday, he said it was the ulcer that led to very serious bleeding. "But by the grace of God, we caught it in time," he said, drawing applause and shouts of support from the group. Farrakhan praised several people honored for community service at Saturday's dinner. They included Gus Savage, a controversial former congressman from Chicago; Lu Palmer, a Chicago activist and vocal opponent of Mayor Richard Daley; and Dr. Eugene Pincham, a Chicago attorney who represented an 11-year-old girl for her bicycle. The charges were later dropped. Farrakhan also thanked the staff of the First Call, which he started in his cousin's Washington, D.C., apartment before moving it to Chicago. Farrakhan hopes to begin publishing the newspaper for distribution in Africa.

Righteous Rhythms



Prayer Corner

Food For Thought

It wasn't "fair" that Joseph's brothers threw him into a pit (Gen. 37:24) and later sold him, it wasn't that Potiphar's wife falsely accused him (Gen. 39:14) and he was thrown into prison. However, it was through these "unfair" treatments that Joseph eventually met a "good" Pharaoh who set Joseph over all the land of Egypt (Gen. 41:41). He went from the "Pit to the Palace" via "unfair" treatments.

Well, we may be experiencing some "unfair" things. But, if we are in the will of God, these "unfair" things are part of God's plan to take us from where we are to a higher place. David said he would have fainted unless he had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the world itself.

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Mt. Olive Baptist Church and Clark School activate spirit in community project for kids

Over 60 kids from East Orange will donate their time to benefit others in their local community. Mount Olive Baptist Church and the Clark School will be performing community service project that give kids an opportunity to make a difference. Forty kids, ages 6-18, from Mount Olive Baptist Church Youth Night sponsored a Western Night at benefit parties at East Orange General Hospital on Wednesday, July 28. The kids, dressed in western attire will cook and serve barbecue chicken dinner including baked beans, potato salad, and corn bread 100 people are expected to attend the barbecue dinner.

More than 25 Clark School stu-

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Local Briefs

Doria bill would extend transit discount rates to part-time students

TRENTON — Assembly Democratic Leader Joseph V. Doria Jr. and Associate Minority Leader Wilfredo Caravatta recently introduced legislation that would require New Jersey Transit to extend student discount rates to part-time students.

"It's only fair that part-time students be granted the same privileges as full-time students," said Doria (D-Bayonne). "They're all in the heart of the American Dream and should therefore be entitled to transportation discounts."

Under current law, only full-time students are eligible for bus or rail passenger service discounts. The student discount rate is 25 percent of the price of regular monthly passes.

"Government must do everything in its power to alleviate the high costs of schooling in New Jersey so that we can make it easier...to further their education," said Caravatta (D-South Orange). "Extending travel discounts would help accomplish that goal."

There currently are 11,000 part-time students enrolled in 2-year and 4-year colleges in New Jersey. Under Doria and Caravatta's measure (A-3366), these students would immediately become eligible for a deduction on monthly passes for trains and buses operated by NJ Transit.

Corporate HQ, 50 jobs will come to Elizabeth

ELIZABETH — United Granite has announced plans to build a \$1 million facility on Trumbull Street here to serve as its world headquarters.

The company's decision to move into Elizabeth will create 50 new blue collar and white collar jobs, and \$27,000 in new tax revenues for the City of Elizabeth. Mayor Chris Bollagwe announced.

"United Granite's decision to relocate here helps to continue our revitalization of one of Elizabeth's oldest neighborhoods," Bollagwe said.

United Granite will relocate 160 employees plus an additional 50 (new hires) here to a 16,000 square foot building it is planning to construct at 790 Trumbull Street, according to James P. Vice President and General Manager of the company. The company's new headquarters on Trumbull Street will also include elaborate landscaping which will serve to beautify its surroundings.

Recent projects of the company include the base of the Statue of Liberty, Raritan River Bridge, and the "Jaws" attraction at Universal Studios in Florida.

Gratica and Spector will handle advertising and PR for NJ State Lottery

CHESTER & SHORT HILLS — The New Jersey State Lottery awarded a 2-year \$7 million advertising and public relations contract to Gratica, Inc. and Spector & Associates, Inc. Gratica, one of New Jersey's fastest growing full-service advertising and marketing firms in Chester, and Spector & Associates, an award-winning public relations firm with offices in Short Hills and Manhattan. Their joint proposal bested five other New Jersey-based agencies competing for the lottery account.

The Gratica/Spector team will be responsible for handling all aspects of advertising and public relations for all Lottery online games and instant win games, as well as the Lottery's latest offer, "The Big Game," a multi-state lottery with grand prizes starting at \$5 million, drawn twice weekly. In addition, the Gratica/Spector team will develop a marketing campaign to celebrate the New Jersey State Lottery's 30th anniversary in the year 2000.

Since its inception in 1970, the New Jersey State Lottery has contributed over \$10 billion to State education and institutions. Currently, the New Jersey State Lottery offers players a wide-variety of entertaining instant games and six different computerized online games.

Elizabeth Branch NAACP extends window of opportunity to Aug. 15

ELIZABETH — The Elizabeth Branch NAACP in conjunction with several local corporations is pleased to announce the availability of several scholarships for 1999 high school graduates and college students.

The deadline for submission of applications has been extended to August 15 due to the availability of more scholarship funds. Local companies and trade unions now enable the branch to offer at least 12 scholarships to students whose 1998 combined family income is \$75,000 or less. Students will need letters of recommendation and to complete the application. Parents and students are encouraged to call the Elizabeth Branch NAACP at (908) 965-1009 or to contact local faith-based institutions and community organizations for applications and further details.

Community rally draws support for Muhlenberg's bid for cardiac surgery

PLAINFIELD — Recently more than 75 community members, political leaders, church representatives and business leaders held a Community Rally to support Muhlenberg's cardiac surgery Certificate of Need lawsuit. The rally was organized by the Coalition for Cardiac Surgery in Plainfield — education, prevention and access to fight cardiovascular disease, a group of 13 community groups united on behalf of Muhlenberg to participate in the legal battle to obtain state approval for a cardiac surgery program.

Speakers at the rally included Julian Miller, president and CEO of the Plainfield Health Center, Howard Senter, MD, chief of Cardiology at Muhlenberg, Larry Everett, superintendent of Plainfield Public Schools, Jay Castullo of the Latin American Coalition; Frank Licato, director of the Central NJ Chamber of Commerce; Councilman Harold Mitchell, Freeholder Lew Mingo, John Kopicki, executive vice president, Solaris Health System; and John McGee, president and CEO of Solaris Health System. Each of the speakers expressed their concern and commitment for this

cause and vowed to fight the state's decision until Muhlenberg receives approval for a cardiac surgery program.

Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center was among eight hospitals that applied for a cardiac surgery Certificate of Need last year. In January, then State Health and Senior Services Commissioner Len Fishman denied Muhlenberg's application and instead selected Atlantic City Medical Center and Jersey City Medical Center.

Muhlenberg has since appealed the commissioner's decision and is currently in litigation with the state over the matter. The Coalition is now joining in the legal fight in support of Muhlenberg by asking to intervene as an interested party. Arguments from both organizations will be heard later this year in state courts.

Julanne Miller, president and CEO of the Plainfield Health Center — the lead agency in the Coalition for Cardiac Surgery in Plainfield — spoke to a group of more than 75 community members and business leaders in support of Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center. The Coalition is filing a lawsuit of its



Julanne Miller, President and CEO of Plainfield Health Center speaking at the Community Rally in support of Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center.

own to back Muhlenberg in its bid for a Cardiac Surgery Program. The Community Rally, which took place at the Plainfield Public Library, was

held to create a greater awareness of the situation and show the community's commitment to bring this service to the area.

Newark Bay vessel launches to clean-up Passaic River

JERSEY CITY — Governor Christine Todd Whitman joined Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners today to christen the newest member of the authority's pollution control team: The Skimmer Vessel Newark Bay.

Once deployed, the boat will patrol the waters of the Passaic River from the Great Falls through Newark Bay collecting trash and other floating debris.

The trash skimmer is the first vessel of its kind to be deployed in the waters of New Jersey. Similar vessels are currently in operation in New York City, Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

Utilizing a unique combination of hydraulically controlled conveyor systems, the boat is able to capture, contain, and off load a wide variety of floating material up to four and half feet in diameter.

The PVSC plans to begin deploying the vessel later this month once the staff has been fully trained in the vessel's operation.

The 50-foot boat, which costs \$500,000, was purchased by the PVSC under a grant from the Whitman administration's Office of Maritime Resources.

"Since 1902, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners has worked hard to help us achieve our goal of clean water," said Governor Whitman. "With a grant from the Office of Maritime Resources, PVSC recently purchased a skimmer vessel and water quality sampling boat that will be used to monitor the quality of our water and help keep it free of pollutants."

Essex County Executive Jim Treffinger said "Programs such as this



Governor Christine Todd Whitman

complement the revitalization efforts of Essex County on Newark's waterfront and enhance the attractiveness of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Minish Park, and the new home of the Newark Bears."

Also unveiled was the PVSC's new water quality testing boat, the research Vessel Passaic River.

This 27-foot craft will be used to implement the first ever long-term water quality sampling and monitoring program on the lower Passaic River.

The deployment of the boats is another element of the PVSC's Passaic River/Newark Bay Restoration Pro-

gram, a three pronged effort to clean up those waterways. On top of the skimmer vessel, the PVSC has participated in more than 42 shoreline clean-ups and removed more than 226 tons of trash as part of the effort to remove floatables from the river and its banks.

"Since our founding, the goal of the PVSC has been to protect the Passaic River. This effort, the most aggressive ever, represents our commitment to the goal of making the Passaic River again the centerpiece of commerce, recreation and leisure in the North Jersey," said Robert Davenport, executive Director of the PVSC.

On a preliminary basis, the seasonally adjusted workweek of production workers in New Jersey's factories increased over the month by 0.1 hour to 41.7 hours in June.

The Labor Department's survey also found that the average hourly earnings of manufacturing production workers in New Jersey increased by a nickel from May to an estimated \$15.07 during the June survey week.

Employment rises to an all-time high in NJ

TRENTON — New Jersey's economy maintained its growth by adding 1,000 jobs in June while the unemployment rate rose slightly. The New Jersey unemployment rate has been below 5.0 percent for the past 20 months.

According to the Labor Department's monthly survey of employers, the increase in the number of persons working in New Jersey led to a new all-time high seasonally adjusted unemployment level of 3,862,700 in June.

Based on more complete employer reporting for the prior month, the previously released May estimate of wage nonagricultural wage and salary employment was revised upward by 1,000 to a level of 3,861,100, a gain of 6,300 from April.

State Labor Commissioner Mel Getelade said, "The continuing job growth means that New Jersey's economy is strong and healthy and there are still large numbers of employers in this state who are seeking workers. Since January 1994, employment has increased by a total of 353,000 jobs."

Jobs in finance/insurance/real estate rose by 400. Gains in a variety of financial service activities (security brokerages, mortgage banks, and holding and other investment offices) totaled 600, and insurance carriers posted an increase of 300. Partially offsetting declines were recorded in real estate and insurance agencies, down by 300 and 200, respectively.

On a preliminary basis, the seasonally adjusted workweek of production workers in New Jersey's factories increased over the month by 0.1 hour to 41.7 hours in June.

The Labor Department's survey also found that the average hourly earnings of manufacturing production workers in New Jersey increased by a nickel from May to an estimated \$15.07 during the June survey week.

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July 28 — August 3, 1999

How did television become so white?

NEW YORK — During the 1970s, television viewers followed black families in the penthouse ("The Jeffersons"), the projects ("Good Times") and a junkyard ("Sanford and Son"). A decade later, TV's first family was Bill Cosby's Huxtables.

Now, in 1999, the NAACP has attacked the four biggest networks for a "glaring omission" of minorities in major roles on comedies and dramas. The nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization is threatening lawsuits and boycotts, and suggesting that the Federal Communications Commission hold hearings on the topic. "To paraphrase Newton Minow when he said television is a vast wasteland," said Robert Johnson, founder and chairman of Black Entertainment Television, "I'd say television is a vast white land."

What happened? Experts suggest the major networks have become timid and slavishly devoted to the demographics prized by advertisers — young, white and affluent. And it doesn't help that there are no blacks with the authority to determine what goes on the air. Prime time isn't devoid of blacks. Cosby has another show, ABC's "The Hughleys" stars a black family, although it deals with their experiences living in a white neighborhood. Actor Eric La Salle is prominently featured in the ensemble of "ER," prime-time's most popular show. CBS is planning a midseason replacement series, "City of Angels," a medical drama with a primarily black cast. Dramas like "NYPD Blue" and "Law and Order" are more likely than comedies to have multiracial casts.

ABC's "The Practice" includes two black actors in its ensemble cast portraying lawyers. But it was the paucity of black actors on the new shows premiering this fall that prompted the NAACP action.

"It almost looks as if somebody is turning the clock back and trying to avoid using black performers," said Doug Allgood, senior vice president for special markets at the advertising firm REDO. "It's not something that's imagined. It's real."

Declining viewership and a proliferation of programming choices mean it's harder to reach a mass audience today. The networks have increasingly become specialized in their efforts to reach an advertiser-friendly audience. It's clear they don't believe black actors help much.

Television is also cyclical, or kindly imitative. Ensemble shows like "Friends" and "Dawson's Creek" recently have been particularly influential among program-ners, producing a string of look-alikes.

So many young, white actors walked across the stages when the networks announced their fall schedules this spring that they seemed interchangeable. Hollywood had trouble casting all the shows. It wasn't just blacks who were under-represented; people over age 50 were seen almost as infrequently.

"They don't take risks anymore," Johnson said. "Major network programming divisions are also run by a tight fraternity of executives, all of them white, and it sometimes seems, as interchangeable as the actors. NBC Entertainment President Earth Acker did the same job at the WB. ABC Entertainment President Jamie Tarnes was a top executive at NBC."

"They're being myopic," Allgood said. "Too many people are talking to themselves. Too many programs are being created by people who are sitting around saying, 'That's funny to me and funny to my buddies, let's put it on.'"

Oddly enough, a BBDO study found that blacks and whites were watching the same shows more often this year than at any time since the 1991, such as "ER," "Touched by an Angel," "Monday Night Football" and "60 Minutes."

But the bad news for the industry is how quickly TV sets are being turned off in black houses. Ratings for prime-time network shows among black audiences were off 10 percent from a year ago, and 26 percent for the 20 most popular shows, the study found.

The NAACP didn't mention the two smaller networks, UPN and the WB,



"Parenthood"

which this fall will each have four comedies with primarily black casts. The Steve Harvey Show" on the WB was the year's first popular show among black audiences.

Both networks, however, will run their black-oriented comedies back-to-back-to-back-to-back on one night.

The "zany" programming of similar shows is popular among programmers as a way of stopping viewers from changing channels. But it can also be interpreted as a subtle form of segregation.

The message: one for whites to watch downing else. And what's interesting to note is that these shows don't even appeal to all blacks, some of whom consider them to be offensive and to offer a biased view of black life.

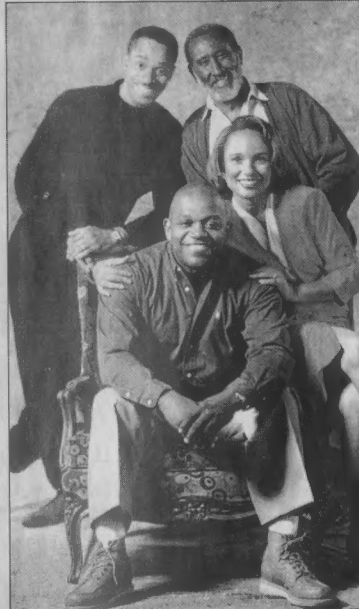
Many black viewers are suspicious that even these networks don't have a long-term commitment to their needs. Flailing networks often use black-oriented shows as a way of quickly building an audience, since blacks in general watch more TV than whites.

Yet when the networks are established, they then push for shows they believe will appeal to whites because advertisers consider whites a more lucrative target. Johnson said executives at ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC were almost sheepish in their response to the NAACP. None indicated they believed they were doing enough to promote diversity.

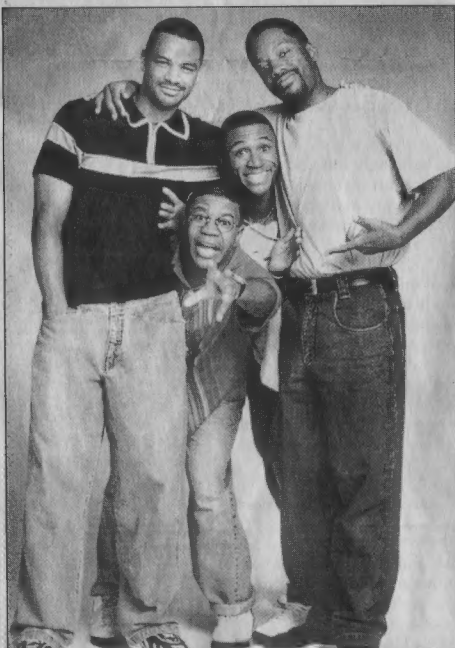
Even before the NAACP announcement, executives at NBC and ABC said they considered it a priority to cast a wider ethnic net.

Perhaps that's a good sign," Allgood said. "In the past, they would have come back with an arrogant or defensive attitude. Unfortunately, in our business, things don't change unless there is a little bit of stress." Johnson is less optimistic. Indeed, he's banking on the status quo. BET is developing a series of 10 made-for-TV movies and a late-night talk show designed to reach the burgeoning black middle class, which he believes the major networks don't really care about.

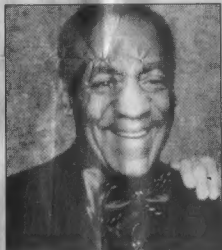
"They have no intention of changing what they're doing," he said. "None whatsoever."



"Roc"



"The Cosby Show"



"Living Single"



"In the House"



"The Tempest Bledsoe Show"



"George"



"New York Undercover"

Countdown to
2000

Important
Community
Announcement

CITYNET 2000

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

— Declaration of Independence

Having celebrated the last Fourth of July of the 20th century, we encourage the citizens of New Jersey, particularly those in black and urban communities, to take a stand for the betterment of our communities by proclaiming our independence from those things that have kept us from reaching our full potential.

We invite you to join with communities across our great state as we sow the seeds of freedom and justice now, to reap a great harvest for ourselves and most importantly for our children. This joint venture for our freedom is CityNet, an initiative of City News Publishing Company.

CITYNET is a deliberate and sustained initiative to build and unite New Jersey's black and urban communities. The three primary objectives are to foster, encourage, and support the broad-based exchange of information, to create and produce a comprehensive array of inclusive statewide programs, and to publicly recognize all levels of achievement, both individual and collective.

By joining together all segments of our state's population in this new initiative, we believe that renewing our efforts for educational excellence, better employment opportunities, healthy lifestyles, affordable quality housing, spiritual renewal, economic development and civic pride, among other concerns, are achievable goals.

From Paterson to Camden, CityNet will serve as the community center which unites the gospel of the church with the reformation of the education system; the voting drives in the political arena to the accumulation of wealth in urban communities. CityNet will reflect the spirit of the city and the people and forces that keep that spirit alive.

Join us in declaring our independence and celebrate the struggles of our ancestors by proclaiming a new vision of the future.

Just sign your name to be published in City News as your commitment to our collective efforts in helping our black and urban communities grow and prosper in the new millennium.

I declare my commitment to the growth and development of our black and urban communities in the new millennium.

Signed _____

Date _____

Please return to City News Independence, PO Box 1774, Plainfield, NJ 07061 or fax to (908) 753-1036.

Declare your independence.

HeartBeat

Health Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28

TEANECK — Holy Name Hospital's Regional Cancer Center hosts a food preservation demonstration beneficial to cancer patients 1 p.m. (201) 833-3188

JERSEY CITY — Jersey City Medical Center will hold a support group meeting for breast cancer survivors at the hospital's conference room 6 p.m. (201) 915-2273

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital will host a support group meeting for patients who have children in Neonatal Care Unit (NCU) at the hospital's intensive care nursery 7 p.m. (732) 745-8600

BOUND BROOK — The Blood Center of New Jersey will hold a blood drive at the Midway Eastern Star Lodge 4 p.m. 1-800-BLOOD-NJ

THURSDAY, JULY 29

KEARNY — The Blood Center of New Jersey will hold a blood drive at the Kearny Police Department 11 a.m. 1-800-BLOOD-NJ

FRIDAY, JULY 30

WAYNE — The Blood Center of New Jersey will hold a blood drive at the Wayne General Hospital 3 p.m. 1-800-BLOOD-NJ

SATURDAY, JULY 31

WEST MILFORD — The Blood Center of New Jersey will hold a blood drive at the Dairy Queen Parking Lot 11 a.m. 1-800-BLOOD-NJ

MONDAY, AUGUST 2

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital will host a support group meeting for women living with breast cancer at the Cancer Institute 7 p.m. (732) 745-8600

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5

SOMERSET — St. Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick will host a support group meeting for adults living with diabetes at its Homocare America Store 7:30 p.m. (732) 745-8600

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7

EDISON — The Matchless-Edison Branch of NAACP hosts its Fourth Annual Family Health & Cultural Fair at the Edison Job Corps Campus 11 a.m. (732) 545-1677

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11

JERSEY CITY — Jersey City Medical Center will hold a support group meeting for those suffering from breast cancer at the hospital's conference room 6 p.m. (201) 915-2273

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital will host a support group meeting for couples awaiting a pregnancy and losing an infant at the first floor cafeteria 7 p.m. (732) 745-8600

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14

PLAINFIELD — The American Red Cross of Greater Union County & Plainfield Area will hold a blood drive at the First Unitarian Society 9 a.m. (908) 756-6414

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21

FANWOOD — CONTACT We Care hosts its Fourth Annual Road Race Fund-Raiser for Kids at LaGrande Park 6 p.m. (908) 654-1535

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25

JERSEY CITY — The Jersey City Medical Center will hold a support group meeting for those surviving breast cancer at the hospital's conference room 6 p.m. (201) 915-2273

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26

PLAINFIELD — The American Red Cross of Greater Union County & Plainfield will hold a blood drive at the United Presbyterian Church 3 p.m. (908) 756-6414

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28

EDISON — The American Red Cross of Greater Union County & Plainfield Area will hold a blood drive at the Edison Firehouse 9 a.m. (908) 756-6414

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

EDISON — JFK Medical Center offers a course in vaginal birth after cesarean section 7 p.m. (732) 632-1530

JERSEY CITY — The Jersey City Medical Center will hold a support group meeting for newly diagnosed breast cancer patients at the hospital's conference room 6 p.m. (201) 915-2273

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

EDISON — JFK Medical Center offers a course in infant care for adoptive parents 7 p.m. (732) 632-1530

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

JERSEY CITY — Jersey City Medical Center will hold a support group meeting for breast cancer survivors at the hospital's conference room 6 p.m. (201) 915-2273

It's About Your Health

Controlling your weight healthily

By Rebecca J. Al-Nakhli, A.T.

This is the last part in a series about how to change your body size said time and time again, always consult your physician before beginning any eating plan.

Few of us know what a good friend water is to our bodies. But it is the key to our health. Water is the only substance that naturally helps flush your lymphatic system of unwanted toxins. You must drink at least eight glasses a day to thoroughly hydrate your body. Most of us, however, are closer to dehydration than hydration.

One way to use water to help control your weight is by drinking a beverage consisting of cider-vinegar and water. Cider-vinegar is one of the greatest health promoters. If you start your day with two teaspoons of vinegar in a glass of water, you will substantially cut down cravings.

Have you ever wondered why the first meal of the day is called breakfast? Well, it is just that. Every night when you go to sleep and stop eating, your body has a mini fast. This gives your body an opportunity to repair and rebuild the energy that it used all day to try to digest what you ate.

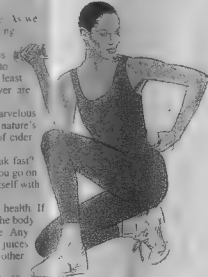
Giving your body these rest periods is helpful in promoting good health. If you can continue to eat only fresh fruit for the majority of the morning, you will have more time to cleanse itself of toxins ingested the day before. Any fruit or fruit juices are good. By drinking water, cider-vinegar and fruit along with eating any fruit, you will have more energy. Begin eating foods after 11 a.m.

When you eat fruit keep in mind that it will digest in your system minutes. So, if you consume it with another food that takes longer to digest, it will cause the fruit to petrify in the digestive tract, and you will have more energy. Have you ever noticed how sluggish you feel after most meals? This is because they consist of food combinations that do not mix well.

Try not to mix meat and potatoes in the same meal. Proteins do the focus of your meal, then eat vegetables with it like, corn, green beans, salads, broccoli, etc. However, if you want a starch, carbohydrate like potatoes or pastas and breads, then combine three meals a day of meat and potatoes or meat and bread at the problems, etc.

The secret to this system is to choose the focus of the meal — either carbohydrates or proteins. Combining food categories can cause problems and you will have less energy. You can eat a meal in 10 to 15 minutes, but it will take your body 2 to 3 hours after a meal to digest it. If you eat a meal in 10 to 15 minutes, but it will take your body 2 to 3 hours after a meal to digest it. If you eat a meal in 10 to 15 minutes, but it will take your body 2 to 3 hours after a meal to digest it.

Rebecca Al Nakhli, A.T., an appearance therapist is C.E.O. and founder of Al Nakhli Appearance Therapy Centers.



Rev. Jackson chastises lawmakers to support a patients Bill of Rights

WASHINGTON — Recently the Reverend Jesse Jackson, president of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, released the following statement regarding the failure of a comprehensive health plan that would have forced insurers to make patients' health, not profits, the top priority.

The Senate voted 53-47 to kill a Democratic provision that would have enabled patients to sue their health plans.

"We must reject so-called compassionate conservatism that would deny men and women who are uninsured and without the appropriate resources to secure quality medicine and health care," Jackson said. "We must reject compassionate conservatism that gives HMOs life-endangering authority over patients' care."

"We need to reject compassionate

conservatism that puts profits for the greedy over people who are needy. Every day, a coal miner dies from black lung disease. Every day, 1,500 Americans die from cancer. Hundreds of thousands more are infected with HIV and AIDS, diabetes and heart disease not all of America is whole, and not all of America is healthy."

Even Americans who are doing well are still on extended illness away from bankruptcy. We must demand leadership that puts patient care at the same level of the personal care options that our leaders have. The U.S. Congress and those running for president must be accountable. A Patients Bill of Rights that embraces only 100 million people behind, is immoral and beneath the American promise of equal protection under the law for all Americans."

If you would like to give your opinion on any health tips, fax them to
CITY NEWS Health
at
(908)753-1036
or
mail to:
P.O. Box 1774
Plainfield, NJ 07061

Now even more kids qualify for healthcare coverage.

We'd like to start with yours.

Despite what they say about the economy, times can still be tough. They can be even tougher when your employer doesn't provide health benefits for your children. That's why there's NJ KidCare — low cost, quality health coverage for New Jersey's uninsured children and teens. And now NJ KidCare has expanded to cover more kids than ever before. For example, a family of six can make as much as \$78,190 a year and still qualify. You could too.

NJ KID CARE

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If you have an uninsured child age 18 or younger, don't wait another day. Call now

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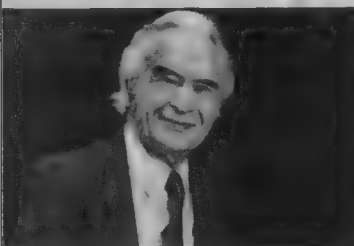
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NJ KidCare is a program of the New Jersey Department of Human Services Christine Todd Whitman, Governor

Artz Wednesday

July 28 — August 3, 1999

Jazz legend Dave Brubeck to give opening night performance



Dave Brubeck

Photo by Carol Friedman

The 1999 Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors free summertime festival will be the "Carnival of the Century." Dedicated to the memory of Leonard de Paur, the dynamic conductor and champion of the arts and the founder of the Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors, this summer's festival will bring circus-like vision of events he created for the beautiful plazas of Lincoln Center and Damrosch Park during a packed three-week schedule, August 6-29.

Date	Performance	Place
Friday, August 6 8:00 p.m.	GREAT MUSIC BANDSHELL Jazz Takes Flight. A celebration of Festival founder Leonard de Paur with Ambassador Andrew Young. Also performing is Dave Brubeck and Anthony Davis	Damrosch Park
Wednesday, August 11 6:30 p.m.	Jazz on the Plaza The one and only Lou Donaldson	North Plaza
Tuesday, August 17 7:00 p.m.	Jazz on the Plaza Paulo Moura and Olli Korman's Galeria Project. Ramdate August 18	North Plaza
Sunday, August 22 3:00 p.m.	The Sixteenth Annual Roots of American Music. The best in Gospel, Folk, Rockabilly and Blues	North Plaza
4:00 p.m.	Finest Kind Spectacular Harmony Billy Lee Riley Blue Collar Blues	Damrosch Park
8:30 p.m.	The original Clara Ward Singers featuring Charles Williams' Downhome Gospel	Damrosch Park
9:15 p.m.	Doc Watson A Timeless National Treasure	Damrosch Park
Friday, August 27 8:00 p.m.	Great Music in the Bandshell —In Celebration of an African-American Legacy. The Reggie Workman Orchestra, Ravi Coltrane, and Nedra Olds Neal in honor of John Coltrane. Ramdate August 30	Damrosch Park



Keith Marks

July 28 12-15 p.m.	Annual outdoor jazz, calypso, R&B, funk, Latin, concert by Keith Marks & Company The Patio at Golda Meir Plaza, 1411 Broadway. Free to the public. (873) 374-9972	NEW YORK
Aug. 7 3 p.m.	Free concert of jazz, calypso, R&B, funk, Latin and other styles by Keith Marks & Company Bronx Borough President Jazz Concert Series. Tracy Towers residential development, Moehufu Parkway. (873) 374-9972	BRONX

AT&T Latino Arts Festival

In its third year, the AT&T Latino Arts Festival returns to the Queens Theatre in the Park, in Flushing Meadows Corona Park from July 21 - August 8. Ticket prices range from \$5 - \$40. Some children's performances and admission to the gallery exhibition are free.



Johnny Pacheco

Sergio Vargas

Thu. Aug 5 5:00 p.m. -	Roberto Silva-Brazil. Silva's drumming is a marvelous amalgamation of jazz filtered through his Brazilian roots.
Fri. Aug 6 8:00 p.m. -	Sergio Vargas- Dominican Republic. One of the most famous performers ever.
Sat. Aug 7 8:00 p.m. -	Johnny Pacheco- Caribbean J/S. His name is synonymous with the hot salsa sounds of his era.
Sun. Aug 8 7:00 p.m. -	Manuelito de Melancon- Cuba. The dance ensemble presents the sounds of Cuba brought from Africa.

Herb Alpert's many shades of color

Like a diamond forever in search of a brighter, more contemporary setting, Herb Alpert's horn is always reaching toward the cutting edge of what's hip, fresh and grooving.

On Herb Alpert & Colors, his third release for Almo Sounds, the legendary trumpeter brings his classic style to the cap of the new millennium with one suit of vibrancy and passion that thunders all of his artistic, creative and philanthropic endeavors over the past four decades.

Working with and vibing off of the unique hip-hop rhythmic aspirations of co-producers Will Calhoun and Doug Winbush, Alpert creates a picture perfect new album, melodic and coolly funky, atmospheric and hypnotic, irresistibly soulful and seductive.

As with all of the music that Alpert's created over the years from his 60's heyday with The Tijuana Brass through his late 70's hit "Rose" and on into his hip-hop, jazz and Latin endeavors in the 90's, Herb Alpert & Colors is an honest portrayal of where his heart is at this moment of his life.

Herb Alpert & Colors grew natural ly out of the same basic philosophy of "just capturing what feels good" with those he chooses to work with. Alpert enjoyed the music of Calhoun and Winbush's band Jungle Funk and when he arrived at Calhoun's house in the Bronx to discuss a possible collaboration, he found Winbush there and the three entered jamming spontaneously.

While Winbush and Calhoun's impressive array of electronic utilities forms the rhythmic foundation and cool ambience of the album, other colors are fleshed out by some of contemporary music's most acclaimed studio musicians: keyboardist/organist Bernie Worrel, guitarist Hector Penner, percussionist Pumaun du Costa, Eddie del Barrio (who combines strings and vocal samples), keyboardist Greg Smith, and Jorge "Coco" Trivisonno, who plays the bass down on the hip-hop blues meets Latin jazz dance adventure "Libertango."

Alpert's wife Lani Hall sampled



Legendary trumpeter, Herb Alpert released his new album, Herb Alpert & Colors.

Photo by Gerry Wash

voices and sings sultry lead vocal on "The Look of Love" and Bernard Fowler croons beautifully in Spanish on the throbbing, heavily techno percussive "Dencia."

Alpert attributes his amazing ability to thrive artistically to his lifelong love for the horn. "Making records is a passion for me," he emphasizes. "I love to do them, and there's always a bit of a let-down when the process is over. I keep

playing because of a personal need. When I go for months without going into the studio, my energy level starts waning. I just can't imagine my world without making music."

In all, Alpert and the TJB recorded 14 platinum albums, six of which earned Grammy nominations. Alpert became the only artist in pop history to jump to the top of the charts at both a vocalist and instrumentalist.

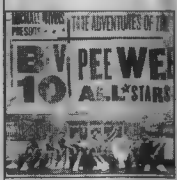


The Pee Wee's are trying to make it big



Photo by Jonathan Mannion

(L to r) Tay, DJ Jaz, Stansky, Ray Ray, Hutch, P-Nutt, Lil' Nique, Shortee Red, McGlen and Antuan are The BIV 10 Pee Wee's.



Hip hop is to update an old slogan, the new sound of a new Young America. So who better to take it to the youth of America than the Youth of America? The ones who have grown up living, breathing, and making the music and who are products of the vibrant and far reaching rap community.

Discovered by music impresario and member of New Edition and Bell Biv DeVoe Michael Bivins, The Biv 10 Pee Wees are a collective of b-boy skills and performing expertise, undeniable charisma and star power, lined up to banging tracks that will cross generation

lines. The Adventures—a compilation album featuring collaborations of individual sub-groups within the Pee Wees—is full of smart, sassy, soulful, street credible music from a bunch of kids who are wise beyond their years but young at heart.

The Pee Wees are ten unique young men from all over the country, each with their own flavor," says Bivins, who hand-picked each member of the team. "I just kept feeling all of these kids together, as one powerful force in music," he explains.

Ranging in age from 8 to 14, and

hailing from various cities and states, the Pee Wees' nucleus is made up of an extraordinary collective of youthful rappers, the duo of 8-year-olds Lil' Nique and DJ Jaz, natives of Brooklyn and Queens respectively, Stansky a.k.a. Lil' Kenny (10) and Hutch a.k.a. Quasi (11), who are from Boston and Brooklyn respectively, Shortee Red (10) and Tay (11), both from Brooklyn, and Los Angeles native P-Nutt (10).

Add the fella together, and you can understand why Michael Bivins knew that The Biv 10 Pee Wees were the next move in hip-hop.

Get "Beneath the Surface" with the Genius



Photo by T. Hopkins

The GZA will release his long-awaited third album, Beneath the Surface, July 29, fortified with strong guest appearances, crisp beats and powerful lyrics.

Frequently heralded as one of the most intellectual and complex emcees of all time, GZA is about to drop another bomb. His long-awaited third album, Beneath the Surface, delves into the flesh of hip hop.

Relying on his classic lyrical style and reinventing the structure of the album, the potency of his beats and flow will impress the most critical listener. Following the theme of his album, GZA gives a personal account of his continuing journey to self-expression.



Photo by T. Hopkins

The genius worked with various producers—Allah Mathematics, Arabian Knight, RZA and Deck, who dropped a bomb with the title cut "Beneath the Surface."

A lot of people have been wondering where the Genius has been for the last couple of years.

He's been trying to keep everything in perspective, planning his next move and making sure he occupies the ideas and cover his back.

This new album is called Beneath the Surface.

"That's self explanatory. That's the underground stuff, the Wu, the hardcore, the hip-hop, the rugged and raw. I had fun working on this album—it probably took about three to four weeks to track the songs and then all the ideas, hooks, titles, and other thoughts came after that."

"It's tight—the beats are more color than any on my last record, Liquid Swords. The lyrics are still visual and cinematic. My last album was cold and rigid, and it was released in the winter. This one is a warmer album, physically and mentally," says GZA.

Billboard

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28

MONTECLAIR — TheaterFest Broadway on the Hill presents Cy Coleman's award-winning musical "Barbra" at the Next Stage Theater on the campus of Montclair State University. 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. (973) 655-5112.

MOUNTAINSIDE — The Union County Division of Cultural & Heritage Affairs presents Reggae Vibration at Echo Lake Park, part of the Union County Summer Arts Festival. 7:30 p.m. (908) 527-4500.

NEW YORK — The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture presents an art exhibit entitled "Black New York Photographers of the 20th Century" call (212) 441-2259 for time and information.

JERSEY CITY — The Jersey City Museum presents an art exhibit featuring the works of painter Gwen Fabrikant. Call (201) 547-6524 for time and information.

NEW YORK — WOOD-FM (CD-101.9) presents its "Free Lunchtime Jazz Concert" at the World Trade Center Austin Tobin Plaza. Starting saxophonist Richard Elliot. 12 p.m. (212) 414-1019.

NEW YORK — Annual free outdoor jazz, calypso, R&B, funk, Latin concert by Keith Marks & Company. The Pallo at Golda Meir Plaza. 12-15 p.m. (973) 374-8972.

THURSDAY, JULY 29

BROOKLYN, NY — The Brooklyn Academy of Music and the City Parks Foundation presents legendary R&B group The Bar-Kays at Tompkins Park, part of the Concerts in the Park Series. 7 p.m. (718) 636-4111.

QUEENS, NY — LusAr Productions presents the Third Annual AT&T Latino Arts Festival at Flushing Meadows Corona Park through Aug. 8. Call (212) 594-7275 for time and information.

ENGLEWOOD — The John Harms Arts Center presents R&B legend Dionne Warwick. 8 p.m. (201) 567-3600.

CHATHAM — The Summit Choral presents the Diamond Hill Summer Chorus at Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township. 8 p.m. (973) 762-8486.

FRIDAY, JULY 30

NEW YORK — WRKS-FM (96.7 KISS) presents "R&B Friday" at the World Trade Center Austin Tobin Plaza. Starting singer Cherelle Moore and funk group BT Express. 12 p.m. (212) 352-5758.

ATLANTIC CITY — The Atlantic City Convention & Visitors Authority presents the Atlantic City Soul Funk Weekend. A weekend full of music and dance with the funk sounds of the 70's and 80's. Saxeville Stadium through Aug. 1. Call (609) 340-6807 for time and information.

NEWARK — The City of Newark Department of Recreation and Cultural Affairs presents singer Joe Joe Tario & Blues Flames at Washington Park, part of Friday Evening Swing Concert Series. 5:30 p.m. (973) 733-6454.

NEWARK — The Newark Downtown District and the Newark Municipal Council presents the band Line Drive at Military Park, part of the Sweet City Summer Live Concert Series. 12 p.m. (973) 739-1800.

BLOOMFIELD — Essex County Park System presents jazz legend Chuck Mangione at Brookside Park, part of the Essex County Free Summer Concert Series. 7:30 p.m. (973) 358-3500.

SATURDAY, JULY 31

MOUNTAINSIDE — The Westfield Symphony Orchestra will perform "Tango in the Park" at Echo Lake Park. 7:30 p.m. (908) 527-4745.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3

NEWARK — The Essex County Park System presents "Jazz Under the Stars" starring The Richard Banks Quartet at Weequahic Park, part of Essex County's Summer Concert Series. 7:30 p.m. (973) 268-3500.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4

NEW YORK — WOOD-FM (CD-101.9) presents its "Free Lunchtime Jazz Concert" at the World Trade Center Austin Tobin Plaza. 12 p.m. (212) 414-1019.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6

BLOOMFIELD — The Essex County Park System presents Smooth and The Duprees at Brookside Park, part of the Essex County Free Summer Concert Series. 7:30 p.m. (973) 268-3500.

NEW YORK — WRKS-FM (96.7 KISS) presents "R&B Friday" at the World Trade Center Austin Tobin Plaza. Starting Case and soul legends Ray, Goodman, & Brown featuring Chris Curry. 12 p.m. (212) 352-5758.

NEWARK — The Newark Downtown District and the Newark Municipal Council presents singer Linda Tarnelle and the Dixie Cats at Military Park, part of the Sweet City Summer Concert Series. 12 p.m. (973) 739-1800.

WOODBRIE — The Barn Art Center presents jazz band Stretch-lit. 8 p.m. (203) 524-0413.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7

BRONX, NY — Free concert of jazz, calypso, R&B, funk, Latin and other styles by Keith Marks & Company, part of the Bronx Borough Jazz Concert Series. 3 p.m. (973) 374-8972.

Venture into the "Deep Blue Sea"



Photos by Merie W. Wallace

(Bottom left) Todd Scoggins (Michael Rapaport), Carter Blake (Thomas Jane), and Russell Franklin (Samuel L. Jackson) in Warner Bros.' taut horror film, "Deep Blue Sea."

Researchers aboard the floating laboratory Aquatica have been playing God and now, the terror of Judgment Day has arrived.

Saffron Burrows, Thomas Jane, LL Cool J, Jacqueline McKenzie, Michael Rapaport, Stellan Skarsgard and Samuel L. Jackson star in the taut horror film "Deep Blue Sea."

In hopes of finding the key to the regeneration of the human brain, Dr. Susan McAlister, played by Saffron Burrows, genetically re-engineers the DNA of make sharks, making them smarter and faster—turning them from dangerous predators into predatory monsters.

In the classic horror movies of the past, part of the fun arises from the "who's-going-to-get-it-next?" effect.

When it came time for veteran action director Renny Harlin and his producers to cast their taut horror film, "Deep Blue Sea," they knew that the time honored tradition of "big name star equals hero" was a concept to be played with.

Harlin offers, "We wanted to cast actors who were solid actors but not necessarily movie stars, as in the first 'Alien' movie, where nobody could have expected that Sigourney Weaver was going to survive."

We really wanted to twist the story and put the audience in a position where they have no idea who is who, or what's going to happen to these people."

Harlin knew, though, that he wanted to use the star of his film, "The Long Kiss Goodnight," Samuel L. Jackson.

And Jackson was eager to join the story of a group of scientists and off-shore laboratory workers being menaced by the genetically-enhanced sharks they themselves created.

Jackson comments, "I looked forward to doing this picture, and it's something different for me. I grow up watching monster movies. Even though this has a different kind of monster, it has all of the elements of films like 'Frankenstein,' 'The Wolfman' and of course 'Jaws.' But 'Deep

Blue Sea' takes a lot of the conventions from previous films and turns them into something new. Inside it is a great monster movie plus a big chase movie, and I like being chased by things."

Jackson also adds, "You know, we're the smartest thing on the planet theoretically, but when we get out of our element, other things become a lot brighter and stronger and faster and more adept at dealing than we are. So we are put in a position of having to out-think the sharks, and that's one of the appealing elements of this film."

"You know, we're the smartest thing on the planet theoretically, but when we get out of our element, other things become a lot brighter and stronger and faster and more adept at dealing than we are."

Harlin was as good as his word when it came time to fill the other roles, including the laboratory's resident (and unintentionally heroic) chef, Preschler, and the director looked to the world of urban horror for his actor.

As he had with millions of his fans, LL Cool J had connected with Harlin on a musical level at first.

Then the director saw a couple of his films and cast him as Sherman "Preacher" Dudley, whom Cool J describes as a cook who is a man of God, kind of like Robert Duvall's 'The Apostle' meets Chef Boyardee—then he has to run from underwater aliens. It's great. They should put on the movie posters 'Come on in... Keep your clothes on... Go home sleeping.'

The actor sees "Deep Blue Sea" as a personal "opportunity to grow. I've achieved a lot in music, but it's time for a change, time to grow."

From the bookshelf of African-American authors



Photo by Michelle Miller
Saul Williams

"She" is his feminine side

Poet-musician-actor and high priest of hip-hop poetry, Saul Williams has been burning down the house at events like the Portland, Oregon National Poetry Slam, the "Open Mic" sessions at the Brooklyn Moon Cafe, and the legendary Nuyorican Poet's Cafe since 1995 when he first exploded on the spoken-word poetry scene. His 1998 feature film, "Slam," took both the "Sundance Film Festival Grand Jury Prize" and the "Cannes Camera D'Or." Williams' latest poetry volume entered SNE further touches upon the theme of victimization—in relationships. "I was attempting to find rational explanations for my feelings of being ignored in my relationship or not nurtured...of course, about halfway through the book, I realized that I was choosing to play the role of the victim and, thus discovered my power within." SNE is an intellectual and emotional entree into the poet's love affair with girlfriend Marcia Jones whose artwork is scattered throughout the book as a visual dialogue with the author's words. It not only explores Williams' own relationship but also provides a roadmap to the newly evolving framework of how young people love today.

What black women really want in a man

"Instead of 'the ideal man,' I want a 'deal man': a man who keeps up his end of the deal, whatever deal was made." (Olorun Hart)



"My ideal man is a mixture of many. From my father, I would take his wisdom (gained from life, not books) and his loyalty (married to the same woman for 57 years). From my brother I would come perseverance (raised four children). Strength would come from my husband (I've lean on when I've tired). I would take the spirit of my five-year-old autistic child (can't talk but shares his world with me)." (Jacqueline Sharp)

The passages above are from the new book, *All The Men I Need: Black Women's Loving Expressions On The Men They Desire* by Annetta Modu & Andrea Walker.

Little David becomes a giant



One thing is certain: our age will not be known as the age of heroes and role models. It seems that all of our leaders and achievers ultimately expose their feet of clay. In such a world, Little David Had No Fear is long overdue. It is a book for children and young adults that tells the story of the childhood years of Afro-American pioneer, William Grant Still, an important American composer whose life is largely unknown. Still was a major force in American music and one of the most influential composers of the 20th century. He was the first African American to be named into the field of serious music named him the title, "Dean of Afro-American Composers." Little David Had No Fear is both entertaining and educational. From the carefully chosen moments of William's early years, Judith Anne Still, the author and daughter of the late composer-conductor, designs young readers with stories that they can immediately relate to, and impresses them with a personal knowledge of and affection for, a remarkable and hitherto unrecognized giant of American history. All in all, Little David Had No Fear brings forward the portrait of an American giant in a gentle, not solid manner. In this book, young readers will find a hero, And, in a world where our children need heroes where all our 'little Davids' need to become Goliaths - this book will be invaluable.

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BOONTON HOUSING AUTHORITY
C.I.A.P. CONTRACT No. 4
NEW SECURITY SYSTEM
AT
REVIEWER TOWERS

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that sealed proposals will be received by the Housing Authority of the City of Boonton (hereinafter called the Authority), in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, at the Administrative Office of the Authority, located at 125 Chestnut Street, Boonton, New Jersey, on August 5, 1999 at 2:00 p.m. prevailing time. The Authority reserves the right to accept any information in bids and to reject any and all bids if it is the best interest of the Authority to do so.

Separate sealed bids for:
CONTRACT No. 5 - Security System at Reviewer Towers

All work incidental thereto, in accordance with Specifications.
Bids must be accompanied by a certified check or Bid Bond in the following amounts:

BIDS	AMOUNT
up to \$200,000	10%
\$200,000 - \$400,000	\$20,000
over \$400,000	5%

Bids must be accompanied by constant surety regardless of whether a check or Bid Bond is submitted. All bonds and consents of surety must be written by surety companies listed in the most recent Circular No. 570, United States Department of the Treasury.

The Contract Documents are on file and may be examined at the Administrative Office of the Authority. Copies of the Contract Documents may also be obtained at said office upon payment by check or bank draft in the amount of \$50.00 payable to the "Boonton Housing Authority" for each set. DOCUMENTS WILL NOT BE MAILED. PAYMENT FOR DOCUMENTS IS NON-REFUNDABLE.

The Successful Bidder will be required to furnish an acceptable Performance and Labor and Material Payment Bond, written by a surety listed in the most recent Circular No. 570, United States Department of the Treasury, as the Authority may prescribe and with such sureties as they may approve.

All Bidders must be authorized to do business in New Jersey. Any Bidder which is a corporation not chartered under the laws of the State of New Jersey, must submit an affidavit certifying that said corporation is authorized to do business in the State of New Jersey. Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of Public Law 107-5, 127 which pertains to "Non-Discrimination" and "Affirmative Action," and Public Law 107-7, 23, which requires a Statement of Corporate Ownership.

Sherry L. Sims
Executive Director
Boonton Housing Authority
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NEW BEDROOM AND BATHROOM
INTERIOR DOORS
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CONTRACT No. 8 - New Bedroom and Bathroom Interior Doors at Reviewer Towers

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\$200,000 - \$400,000	\$20,000
over \$400,000	5%

Bids must be accompanied by constant surety regardless of whether a check or Bid Bond is submitted. All bonds and consents of surety must be written by surety companies listed in the most recent Circular No. 570, United States Department of the Treasury.

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Sherry L. Sims
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- State St. & Babette Pl. at Post Office
- 60 State St. & Sussex St. at Dept. of Labor

IRVINGTON

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- Springfield Ave. & New St. Taxi
- Springfield Ave. & Clinton Ave. Terminal
- Springfield Ave. & Maple St. (Dunkin Donuts)

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- Cleveland St. & Main St.
- Main St. (Post Office)
- No. Day St. & Main St.

NEW BRUNSWICK

- Albany St. & Easton Ave. at Train Station
- Albany St. & Kellison St. at Pizza Hut
- Sumner St. & Wall St. at Rutgers Bus Stop
- George St. & Liberty St. at Bus Stop
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- North Ave. & Terrell Rd. Post Office
- Park Ave. & Crescent Ave. at Library
- Park Ave. & Seventh St. by Scott's Drug Store
- Park Ave. & Fifth St. by Red Tower
- Rock Ave. off Myrtle St. at Pitt. Health Ctr.
- South Ave. & Terrell Rd. at Drug Fair
- South Ave. at Italian Village Plaza
- South Ave. & Leland Ave. at Burger King
- South Ave. & Newstead Train Station
- South Ave. at "The House of Wash" Laundromat
- W. Front St. at White Star
- Watching Ave. & E. 2nd St. at YMCA
- Watching Ave. & North Ave. at Pitt. Post Office
- Watching Ave. & E. 2nd St. at Corner store
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PATERSON

- Broadway St. at Dunkin Donuts at Courthouse
- Broadway St. & Memorial Dr. at Panini's (College)
- Broadway St. & Rona Pl. (Unemployment Office)
- Broadway St. & Madison Ave. at McDonalds
- Broadway St. & Hamilton St. at Dunkin Donuts
- Broadway St. at "Last Corner"
- Dell Plaza & Crosby Pl. at Post Office
- Market St. & Calhoun St. at Dunkin Donuts
- Market St. & Columbus Pl. at City Hall
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EAST ORANGE

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- Main St. at Forman Mills Dept. store
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- East Orange Train Station

ELIZABETH

- Broad St. & W. Grand St. at Bus Stop
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- Broad St. & Dickinson St. at McDonalds
- Broad St. & Railway Ave. at Court House
- Elmora Ave. & W. Haledon St. at Dunkin Donuts
- George St. & DeHart Pl. at Dunkin Donuts
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- Railway Ave. at side of Court House
- Railway Ave. at Cultural Ctr. & Bus Stop

NEWARK

- Bergen St. at Family Health Care Center
- Bergen St. at UMD Doctor's Office Center
- Franklin St. off Broad St. at McDonalds
- 134 Bailey St. & Cedar St. at Unemployment Office
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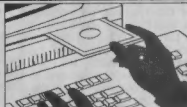
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Clark's running days are now over

By Gregory Moore

The name Joetta Clark may be a derivative of its famous father's name (former Paterson East Side principal Joe Clark), but Clark has successfully carved out her own identity. One of New Jersey's all-time track & field greats, the Columbia High School product who specialized in the 800 and 1500 meter events has competed in three Olympic games (1988, 1992, and 1996), ranked among the top ten Americans for over 21 years, and achieved a career best world ranking of number six in 1993 and 1994. Joetta has recorded personal outdoor bests of 52.20 (400 meters), 1:57.84 (800 meters), 2:37.91 (1000 meters), and 4:35.17 (1600 meters). Despite a bevy of awards, honors and athletic accomplishments, Clark has aggressively developed off-the-track business interests with great success. An insight into how Clark approaches business challenges can be gleaned from her thoughts on her approach to athletic hurdles. "There's a burning desire that I have to be the best. There came a point in time where the older I got the younger people, you would think, would push me aside. But their work ethics were a little different. We have a different work ethic and take care of our bodies, therefore we stay around. I've been healthy. I've never missed a season." Clark

Gregory Moore

"There's a burning desire that I have to be the best. There came a point in time where the older I got the younger people, you would think, would push me aside."

began laying the groundwork for her post-athletic pursuit, when a student at the University of Tennessee. In addition to helping Tennessee's powerful women's basketball team capture an NCAA title, Clark was one of those athletes who refused to let a university exploit her. Instead, she exploited her educational opportunities by not only earning her BA degree in public relations, but by also earning her masters in sports administration. Those early decisions are now paying dividends. A popular motivational public speaker, Clark, like her father is a regular on the lecture circuit where she frequently counsels youngsters. Clark now runs her own firm, Joetta Sports & Beyond which serves as a vehicle through which she channels many of her speaking and promotional activities. Clark has also effectively served as her own agent/manager and has consummated corporate sponsorship with companies such as Nike, Fox Locker, Ray Bahm, and Power Bar, just to name a few. In addition her sports administration background was put to use in June of 1997, when Governor Christine Todd Whitman named Clark one of the eight commissioners of the New Jersey Sports and Exhibition Authority. In that capacity, Clark will play an important role in the New Jersey Nets possible move to downtown Newark. On the community service front, Sports Illustrated chose Clark as one of its HomeTown Hero's for her charitable work on behalf of children. Visa also bestowed its humanitarian award on Clark for her community service activities. Clark is clearly a person to watch, and her post athletic career should serve as a blueprint for professional athletes who seek to make as smooth of a transition into the business mainstream as she has.

City Council honors the Newark Bears

NEWARK — As part of the opening ceremonies for the city's new Riverfront Stadium, home for the minor league Newark Bears, the Newark Municipal Council recently presented a commemorative baseball autographed by the players of the 1937 Newark Bears championship team.

In addition, as further sign of their commitment to the return of professional sports to Newark, the council also declared July 16, 1999 as "Newark Bears Day" in the City of Newark.

"We recognize the value and many positive contributions the return of this team and the addition of this new stadium to our skyline can make on our city," said Council President Donald Bradley.

"On behalf of the entire Municipal Council, we enthusiastically extend a warm hand of friendship and a hearty welcome to Rick Cerone and the Newark Bears," said Bradley.

The commemorative baseball, presented to team owner Rick Cerone, is a lasting historical symbol from the city's last professional sports team to win a major championship.

Councilman At-Large Luis Quintana, who made the presentation on behalf of the governing body, said "As a city, we are extremely excited at the return of professional sports to Newark. Through the presentation of this commemorative baseball, we hope the current roster of players will use this as both inspiration and additional incentive to bring another long-overdue championship back home."

In winning the 1937 "Little World Series, the underdog Bears defeated the Rochester (NY) Redwings, in a series that went down to the wire, four games to three.

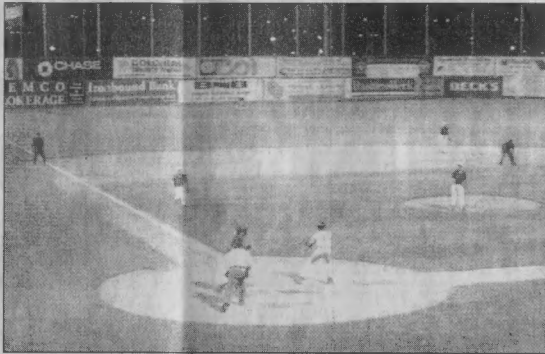
The championship baseball will remain on permanent display and view as an early addition to the planned Newark Bears Museum.

By Selwyn Walker

MAHWAH — Jennifer Capriati ranked No. 43 on the Women's Tennis Association tour served notice in Mahwah on July 18, at the A&P Classic Tournament with an impressive 6-1, 3-6, 6-2 win over No. 24 and third highest ranking black woman on the tour, Chandra Rubin. This was a matchup of two players who have both won this title twice.

Capriati took control in the first set breaking Rubin's opening service game. Rubin then returned the favor by breaking back for a score of 1-2. Capriati broke back to go up 3-1, with back to back forehands that clipped the top of the net and doubled over

Play ball!



Dignified leaders let their excitement show on the new Newark Bears' big opening night July 16. Craig Stanley and his 9-year-old daughter Cathryn (lower left), celebrated Atlanta resident Doug Jennings' game-winning home run. Mayor Sharpe James has fun with a fan and his son (lower right), during the new Riverside Stadium's first game. At the top, the Bears, hold their own against the Lehigh Valley Black Diamonds in the breathless bottom of the 10th inning.

giving her another break and a 3-1 lead. Capriati then held serve to close out the first set.

The second set followed the same format as the first, with Capriati holding serve and then breaking Rubin. Down 2-0, Rubin put together a strong service game to hold at 2-1. During the fourth game of the set, with Rubin up 40-30, Capriati hit a clear forehand winner.

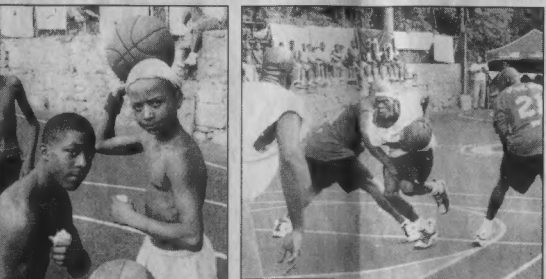
However, a balloon landed onto the court, which caused the umpire to call a let — meaning the point had to be played over.

Rubin, took advantage of the call. And on one of the most exciting points of the match the players in quick play at the net exchanged a series

of volleys with Rubin prevailing to even the set, 2-2. Rubin now gaining momentum of her game held serve and went up 3-2. Both players then holding serve, with Rubin in a 4-3 lead broke Capriati to go up 5-3. Rubin held serve to even the match at one set each.

Capriati dominated the third and final set allowing Rubin to hold serve twice and went on to win her third A&P Classic Tournament. Capriati, who played well at Wimbledon has experienced some personal problems off the court, but she seems to be on her way back and you can expect to see her making a challenging run at the US Open Championship which starts Aug. 30.

Plainfield turns out for Gee-Gee Brown Basketball Tournament



Photos by Pablo Tinto

Mike Fields, in the photo above, was one of the many who participated in the Gee-Gee Brown Basketball Tournament, which was held last weekend, Friday through Sunday. (Left) Two youngsters demonstrate muscle form.

Albert Belle comes back swinging

By Yolanda Young

I recently spent an afternoon in the blistering sun at Camden Yards eating ice chips and watching the Orioles play baseball.

I sat in the cheap seats behind another Shreveport, La. native, Albert Belle, the O's right fielder and power hitter. O's fans feel about Albert the way a mother feels about a new daughter-in-law. Mom wants to embrace her, but they're both a little tense at first.

Albert's a bit distant, so the fans don't know how to take him. On top of that the O's are in last place and showing no signs of life.

Temperers are short as I listen to the sometimes-cheering more often booing fans who know Albert holds our future. We hope he will produce our first World Series "birth" in almost 20 years, but not this year.

Today and for the rest of the season we come anticipating one thing a long ball, the kind Albert has a reputation for hitting especially when he gets hot in July.

On this night the balls don't fly over the wall. In fact, he's 0 for 4 at the bottom of the night and Albert's at bat with a chance to tie the game.

With two out and a full count, he swings and misses. He's got all night to think about the ill-timed swing that sent his team 15 games below .500.

Albert always comes back though, so the next afternoon I join the other diehards in hopes that something big will happen.

By the third inning we sense that we're in for a long wait. I see no reason to waste the sunshine, so I toss my legs over an empty seat and bask in the sun that we hope will give Albert the power to send one into the stands.

Eventually the sun and over the cheers a fan shouts out, "Keep 'em coming, Albert. We know you'll hit 31 after the all-star break cause you're the man!"

The next time I get that feeling in the pit of my stomach, and I want to scurry away, I'm going to think of Albert who showed me on a hot July afternoon how to come back swinging. First, he prepared.

He's often the first player at practice and the last one to leave. Because he is focused and disciplined, he can trust himself.

Whether he's hitting .250 in May or .400 in July, every time he's at bat it is the same two practice swings, a two-handed bat adjustment, and a careful placement of his right pivot foot.

When it's over, whether he's struck out or sent one into the rafters, he touches the cross that hangs from his neck.

A reminder that we should all do what we can and know it's enough.

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